

AVOIDING SCAMS

With recent publicity scams aimed at local seniors, Harpswell Aging at Home wants to make sure town residents can protect themselves should they be targeted.

Things to Do to Avoid Scams

Don't respond to offers that require you to return money to someone, to "act now" to get a limited time deal, to provide personal information such as account or social security numbers, cash unsolicited checks, or come from organizations with which you are unfamiliar or are unable to provide more details. All of these are all examples of scams.

Avoid being swindled. Never give out credit card, bank account or social security numbers to any organization unless you have done business with them in the past and have been satisfied with their performance.

Insist on getting written information about the organization, investigate whether any complaints have been registered with the Better Business Bureau or the Attorney General's Consumer Mediation Service. Take time to make a decision before investing, and consult with someone whose financial advice you trust.

If a caller is uncooperative in answering your questions, simply hang up the phone. Remember, you have a right to know specific facts. They have no right to your money.

Above all else, remember - if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Reporting Scams

For more information, to report a scam attempt or file a complaint, there are several resources available for Harpswell residents to contact.

Cumberland County Sheriff Kevin Joyce can be reached at joyce@cumberlandcounty.org or (207) 774-1444.

Contact the Maine Attorney General's consumer protection division at consumer.mediation@maine.gov (online form) or (207) 626-8800.

If an older adult or any age adult with a disability (60-plus), it should also be reported to the Office of Securities, under the elder abuse division of DHHS at (877) 624-8551 or through an online form at https://www.maine.gov/pfr/securities/complaint_form.htm.